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Fulbright Says Cuba Imperils Only Latins

By Warren Duffee
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Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), expanding on his appraisal of Communist Cuba, said last night that Fidel Castro was a threat only to Latin American nations and not to the United States.

"If there is any real remedy for Castro, it lies within the hemisphere and the organization of American States," the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman said in a television interview (ABC-WMAL).

"The OAS and members of the OAS are the ones threatened, not the United States," he said. "There are some of these countries so weak that they could be infiltrated and subverted."

Fulbright on Wednesday suggested a change in the Nation's Cuban policy, giving Castro free rein on the island as long as he did not attempt to force communism on other Latin American countries.

But he stressed last night that the OAS, not the United States, was primarily responsible for blocking the spread of communism in Latin America.

"The remedy lies within the cooperation of the OAS," Fulbright said. "If they are unwilling to cooperate to protect themselves, I think that our capacity to influence these events would be very limited. But I think they are going to cooperate."

Earlier today, Fulbright rejected Republican charges that he was guilty of "appeasement."

He said the main reason for his major foreign policy speech yesterday, in which he called for a revised look at U.S. policy toward both Cuba and Panama, was an effort to bring foreign policy out in the open for "some accurate assessments."

Fulbright said that some Republican presidential hopefuls, such as Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (Ariz.), and Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, "have said foreign policy is a main issue" and other

Republicans have complained about a lack of Administration action on Cuba.

"I thought we ought to put it all out on the table and see what the facts are in each case," he said. "I don't consider that appeasement or 'being soft on communism.' It's just common sense."

Fulbright said his wide-ranging Senate speech "has nothing whatsoever to do with the Administration" and was entirely "my own views." He denied any part of the speech was in the nature of a "trial balloon" and said he had not heard from either the White House or the State Department since the talk.

Earlier yesterday the Republican National Chairman, William E. Miller, charged that Fulbright was advocating "the same road which Neville Chamberlain traveled in the 1930s."

In the House, the speech was denounced by Republicans until Speaker John W. McCormack cracked down on them, Associated Press reported.

House rules prohibit any member from referring to remarks made in the Senate, on the ground that it might lead to "misunderstanding" between the two chambers. McCormack was lenient with the critics but finally banged his gavel, read the rule, and said no more comments would be permitted.]

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